

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5963

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, IC, GR, NATO
SUBJ: GREECE AND NATO: ICELAND REPLIES TO CARAMANLIS LETTER

ICELANDIS PERMREP TOMASSON OCTOBER 22 CIRCULATED TO SYG LUNS
AND NATO PERMREPS TEXT OF ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT'S REPLY TO
AUGUST 22 LETTER OF PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS TO NATO ALLIES
(EXCEPT TURKEY). PRIME MINISTER HALLGRIMSSON IN HIS REPLY
REMINDS CARAMANLIS THAT ICELAND WAS ALSO INVOLVED IN AN INTER-
ALLIANCE DISPUTE IN WHICH NATO'S ABILITY TO ASSIST WAS LIMITED,
HOWEVER, ICELAND STILL VIEWS ALLIANCE AS NECESSARY FOR COMMON
DEFENSE OF ALL MEMBERS.

BEGIN TEXT OF ICELANDIC REPLY

DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER,

I SHOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER DATED
AUGUST 28TH 1974, STATING YOUR GOVERNMENT'S DECISION
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TO PLACE UNDER NATIONAL COMMAND THE GREEK LAND, SEA AND
AIR FORCES HERETOFORE ASSIGNED TO NATO AND SETTING FORTH
MOTIVATION FOR THIS DECISION.

I NEED NO TELL YOU HOW MUCH WE DEPLORE THE RECENT EVENTS IN CYPRUS AND THE REPERCUSSIONS THEY HAVE HAD ON THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. THE LIMITATIONS OF NATO'S POSSIBILITIES TO SOLVE DISPUTES OR PREVENT CONFLICTS BETWEEN ITS MEMBERS ARE NOT A NEW PROBLEM. YOU WILL, I AM SURE, RECALL THE EXPERIENCES OF ICELAND IN THIS REGARD, ALTHOUGH THEY FORTUNATELY HAVE NOT REACHED THE SAME DIMENSIONS AS THOSE OF YOUR COUNTRY. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THESE LIMITATIONS OF THE ALLIANCE IS THE FACT THAT AN EXTERNAL THREAT, BUT NOT EVENTUAL CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE MEMBERS, WAS IN MAIN PROCCUPATION WHEN THE FOUNDATION OF LHE ALLIANCE WAS LAID, AND ITS STRUCTURE IS THUS NOT SUFFICIENTLY ADAPTED TO THE ROLE OF SOLVING PROBLEMS OF THIS KIND. HOWEVER, WE FEEL THAT IN OUR CASE NATO HAS BEEN ABLE TO EXERT A FAVOURABLE AND HEALING INFLUENCE.

AS REGARDS THE PRIMARY ASPECTS OF THE ALLIANCE'S USEFULNESS, I DO FULLY SHARE YOUR VIEW THAT I DID SUCCEED OVER THE YEARS IN INTRODUCING A MEASURE OF STABILITY IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS AND PROMOTING A CLIMATE CONDUCTIVE TO INTERNATIONAL DETENTE. FURTHERMORE, IT IS MY FIRM BELIEF THAT IN THE PRESENT UNSETTLED STATE OF EUROPEAN AND WORLD AFFAIRS NATO STILL HAS A VERY SIGNIFICANT ROLE TO PLAY IN SECURING THE FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE OF ITS MEMBERS AGAINST POTENTIAL THREATS OR AGGRESSION FROM OUTSIDE. THIS TASK, ITS PRINCIPAL ONE, THE ALLIANCE HAS PERFORMED IMPECCABLY IN THE PAST. I AM, PERSONALLY, CONVINCED THAT NOTHING WILL PREVENT ITS FUTURE SUCCESS IN THIS FIELD IF THE ALLIANCE CAN MAINTAIN ITS COHERENCE AND VIGILANCE, BEARING IN MIND LHAT THE COMMON DEFENCE OF ALL THE MBMVERS IS ONE AND INDIVISIBLE.

I DO SINCERELY HOPE THAT THE MOST SERIOUS DIFFICULTUES NOW AFFECTING GREECE'S MEMBERSHIP IN NATO WILL AT THE EARLIES POSSIBLE DATE BE SETTLED, SO THAT THE ALLIANCE MAY ANEW BE INVIGORATED BY AN UNHAMPERED GREEK PARTICIPATION
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IN THE WORK OF OUR ORGANIZATION.

PLEASE ACCEPT, DEAR PRIME MINISTER, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

END TEXT MCAULIFFE

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